

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

1. (Currently Amended) A file storage device comprising:

an exterior shell having a front wall, a pair of opposing, laterally spaced side walls each having an outer surface, and the front wall having an aperture therein;

an openable panel ~~defining part of the exterior shell~~, the openable panel having a bottom edge, a forward facing surface, and a rear facing surface, the openable panel being pivotable about the bottom edge outward from the exterior shell between a retracted condition at which the forward facing surface is generally flush with the outer surface of the front wall of the exterior shell and an open condition away from the outer surface of the front wall of the exterior shell; and

a file support structure having a file storage area, an open top for insertion, access to, and removal of files from the file storage area, a first panel and a second panel each extending rearwardly from the rear facing surface of the openable panel, the first and second panels defining sides of the file storage area and pivotable with the openable panel, and a file suspension device including a pair of laterally spaced apart curved suspension surfaces, one of the curved suspension surfaces disposed along an upper edge of a respective one of the first and second panels~~disposed adjacent to the first and second panels~~, the file suspension device provided to suspend files within the file storage area, the file support structure disposed adjacent to the rear facing surface of the openable panel and being movable in concert with the openable panel,

wherein the open top is accessible when the openable panel is in the open condition and wherein the file support structure is disposed within the exterior shell when the openable panel is in the retracted condition, and

wherein the file support structure is configured such that panel portions of a hanging file disposed on suspended from the file suspension device are is completely disposed at least substantially between outer surfaces of the first and second panels and laterally extending hooks of the hanging file maintain direct contact with the curved suspension surfaces and no other surface regardless of whether the openable panel is in the retracted condition or the open condition.

2-3. (Canceled).

4. (Previously Presented) A file storage device according to claim 1, wherein the file suspension device is arranged to present files suspended in the file storage area in a forwardly and downwardly cascading arrangement.

5. (Previously Presented) A file storage device according to claim 1, wherein the file suspension device comprises an arched surface.

6. (Original) A file storage device according to claim 1, wherein the exterior shell further comprises:

a top panel providing a generally horizontal support surface.

7. (Original) A file storage device according to claim 1, wherein the exterior shell is in the form of a table when the openable panel is in the retracted condition.

8. (Previously Presented) A file storage device according to claim 1, wherein the exterior shell and the openable panel combine to form a configuration that hides the file storage area of the storage device when the openable panel is in the closed condition.

9-21. (Canceled).

22. (New) The file storage device of claim 1, wherein each curved suspension surface is curved convexly upward.

23. (New) The file storage device of claim 1, wherein each curved suspension surface includes a serpentine surface having a multiplicity of peaks and valleys that maintain spacing between hanging file folders suspended from the file suspension device.

24. (New) The file storage device of claim 1, wherein each curved suspension surface includes a saw-toothed pattern of alternating support surfaces extending along the upper edge of the respective first or second panel and stop parts having a first segment extending generally orthogonal to the support surfaces in a direction away from the upper edge of said respective panel, and a second segment connecting the first segment to an adjacent support surface.

25 (New) The file storage device of claim 1, wherein a stop may be provided at a rear end of each of the suspension surfaces, each of said stops being generally orthogonal to and extending in a direction away from an upper edge of the respective first or second panel associated with the suspension surface, and the stops bearing against an inner surface of the front wall of the exterior shell, opposite the outer surface, when the openable panel is in the open condition.

26 (New) The file storage device of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of wheels extending downwardly from bottom edges of the side walls of the exterior shell to facilitate rolling the file storage device along a surface.